

Message Text

SECRET

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 PRS-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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O R 200904Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2988

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AEBASSY ROME 1364

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T TRIPOLI 0235

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 3.)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: WHAT IS JALLUD UP TO IN ROME?

1. MORE THAN A WEEK HAS PASSED SINCE PRIME MINISTER JALLUD LEFT PARIS FOR ROME, AND HIS FAILURE TO RETURN TO TRIPOLI IS GIVING RISE TO RUMORS. IT IS WIDELY KNOWN IN LIBYAN AND DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES IN TRIPOLI THAT JALLUD HAS BEEN MEETING IN ROME WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AL-HUNI, WHO OF COURSE HAS NOT RETURNED TO LIBYA SINCE THE MUHAYSHI AFFAIR LAST AUGUST.

2. ONE STORY WHICH IS BEING REPEATED IS THAT AL-HUNI HAS BEEN SHUTTLLING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN CAIRO AND ROME, AND THAT HE IS ACTING AS A GO-BETWEEN FOR MUHAYSHI. ANOTHER VERSION IS THAT LT. COLONEL AL-KHARRUBI, WHO HAS BEEN CONDUCTING
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IN INVESTIGATION INTO THE MUHAYSHI PLOT, HAS

DISCOVERED EVIDENCE OF JALLUD'S INVOLVEMENT IN IT,
AND THAT AL-KHARRUBI HAS BROKEN WITH QADHAFI OVER
QADHAFI'S FAILURE TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST
JALLUD. AL-KHARRUBI IS REPORTEDLY
IN A SELF-IMPOSED RETIREMENT IN CYRENAICA
AT THE MOMENT. STILL ANOTHER VARIANT IS THAT JALLUD HAS
ABSONDED WITH STATE FUNDS.

3. BESIDES REFLECTING THE GENERALLY LOW ESTIMATE
OF JALLUD'S CHARACTER WHICH PREVAILS HERE,
THESE BYZANTINE RUMORS ARE AN INDICATION OF
THE CLIMATE OF MORBID SUSPICION WHICH PERSISTS
IN LIBYAN POLITICS, AND THE WIDESPREAD FEELING
THAT QADHAFI CAN NO LONGER TRUST EVEN HIS
CLOSEST ASSOCIATES. CERTAINLY JALLUD'S
LONG STAY IN ROME DOES RAISE THE QUESTION OF WHAT
HE AND AL-HUNI CAN HAVE FOUND TO TALK ABOUT
FOR MORE THAN A WEEK.
CARLE

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